

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7665

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0328

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAU AO CT US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BOKASSA

1. THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC'S LIFE PRESIDENT BOKASSA SUMMONED ME FOR FRIENDLY 20 MINUTE MEETING ON JANUARY 10.
  2. BOKASSA OPENED WITH FULLSOME AMENITIES STRESSING HIS FRIENDSHIP FOR THE US. HE SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO HIS OFFICIAL VISIT IN THE US AND DESIRED ME TO SEND HIS REGARDS AND ESTEEM TO THE PRESIDENT, WHICH I UNDERTOOK TO DO.
  3. BOKASSA THEN EXPRESSED THE WISH TO SEE ME AGAIN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE END OF THE OAU-ANGOLA SUMMIT TO INFORM ME OF WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED THERE. I SAID I WAS HONORED TO BE RECEIVED AND TO HEAR HIS ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDINGS.
  4. BOKASSA CONTINUED THAT HE EXPECTED TO LEAVE ETHIOPIA PROMPTLY ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 13. HE SAID HE WAS UNCOMFORTABLE IN ETHIOPIA BECAUSE HE HAD TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO PREVAIL UPON THE EPMG TO PERMIT THE EMPEROR AND HIS ENTOURAGE TO GO INTO EXILE TO THE CAR. HE WENT ON TO ELABORATE ON HIS EFFORTS SAYING THAT HE HAD SENT 31 AIRPLANE TICKETS AND MONEY TO UNSYG KURT WALDHEIM FOR THE EMPEROR AND HIS FAMILY ONLY TO BE SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED OF HIS MAJESTY'S DEATH. REGRETFULLY, HE HAD STILL NOT BEEN ABLE TO RECUPERATE THE TICKETS OR THE FUNDS. HE ENDED THIS PHASE OF OUR CONVERSATION WITH THE ASSERTION THAT HE HAS CONTINUED TO WORK ON
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THE EPMG FOR THE RELEASE OF UNSPECIFIED MEMBERS OF THE IMPERIAL

FAMILY BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS.

5. HE THEN SAID THAT THE OAU SUMMIT WOULD BE DIFFICULT BUT THAT HE WAS DETERMINED TO FIGHT FOR HIS POINT OF VIEW. HE REFERRED ME TO HIS ARRIVAL STATEMENT IN ADDIS (PRESUMED AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT VIA FBIS) AND SAID THAT IT CONTINUED TO REFLECT HIS POLICY. HE EXPECTED TO DEFEND THIS POLICY THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE AND INTENDED NOT RPT NOT TO DIVERGE THEREFROM.

6. IN EXPRESSING OUR APPRECIATION FOR PRESIDENT BOKASSA'S VIEWS, I SAID THAT I KNEW PRESIDENT FORD WOULD WANT ME TO SAY TO HIM THAT THE USG EXPECTS TO CONTINUE TO WORK FOR A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY IN ANGOLA NOTWITHSTANDING THE SENATE'S ACTION. THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE CONGRESS FOR A REVISION OF THIS DECISION, AND WE ARE CONFIDENT OUR ASSISTANCE CAN BE CONTINUED AS LONG AS IT IS NEEDED TO COUNTER-BALANCE SOVIET INPUTS. WE ARE DETERMINED TO PRESEVERE, I SAID. WE REMAIN OPPOSED TO THE RECOGNITION OF AN MPLA-REGIME FOR ANGOLA. AS I UNDERSTOOD IT, PRESIDENT BOKASSA'S POSITION IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF MY GOVERNMENT. BOKASSA REPEATEDLY AND WARMLY ASSURED ME THAT IT IS THE SAME.  
HUMMEL

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